

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2384
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 10083

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, UR
SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: AMERICAN PAGS FOR 1976

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2884; (B) MOSCOW 5801, (C) MOSCOW 8195
(D) STATE 052487

STATE FOR CU/ARTS, CU/EE, EUR/SOV; LENINGRAD FOR P&C;
USIA FOR IEU

1. GOSKONTsert, NOW PREPARING 1976 BUDGET, HAS REQUESTED
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE GROUPS WE
INTEND TO BRING AND THE TYPES OF HALLS IN WHICH THEY
MIGHT PLAY. TO EMBOFF'S PRESENTATION GENERAL OUTLINE
OUR 1976 PLANS, GOSKONTsert OFFICIAL RESPONDED THAT THIS
WOULD BE QUOTE IMPOSSIBLE UNQUOTE. OFFICIAL CLAIMED THAT
ONLY C&W GROUP "PROFITABLE" AND C&W WOULD IN NO WAY
COVER THEATRE COMPANY, CONCERT ORCHESTRA AND ACADEMIC
GROUP LOSSES. EMBOFF POINTED TO GOSKONTsert'S PREVIOUS
STRESS ON WELL-KNOWN CONCERT ORCHESTRA AS THE MAJOR
ATTRACTION COMMEMORATING BI-CENTENNIAL (SEE REFTEL A).
GOSKONTsert OFFICIAL REPLIED THAT SOVIET SYMPHOIC HALLS
ACCOMMODATE 2,000 SEATS AT MOST AND THREE-WEEK TOUR WITH
15 CONCERTS WOULD ATTRACT ONLY 30,000 PEOPLE. REFERRING
TO RECENT SUCCESS OF NEW YORK JAZZ REPERTORY COMPANY, WHICH
PLAYED IN STADIUMS TO AUDIENCES UP TO 10,000, GOSKONTsert
OFFICIAL SUGGESTED WE SEND GROUPS WHICH WOULD ATTRACT
LARGE AUDIENCES. GOSKONTsert OFFICIAL CONTINUED BY
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ASKING STATUS OF DISNEY ON PARADE (SEE REFTELS B AND D)

WITH COMMENT THAT THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT ATTRACTION.
EMBOFF SUGGESTED GOSKONTSERT CONTACT DOP DIRECTLY AS WE
ARE NOT PLANNING TO NOMINATE IT.

COMMENT: THOUGH TALKS CARRIED OUT IN OPEN AND FRIENDLY
ATMOSPHERE, IT IS APPARENT THAT PROFITS ARE PRIMARY
GOSKONTSERT CONCERN. AS DETENTE MAKING POSSIBLE US PAGS
FOR THE MASSES, GOSKONTSERT HOPES TO REALIZE LARGE PROFITS.
AT LEAST GOSKONTSERT FEELS, ALL 1976 US ATTRACTIONS
TAKEN TOGETHER SHOULD GENERATE ENOUGH MONEY TO MEET
EXPENSES. IT IS APPARENT THAT GOSKONTSERT WILL PLACE
STRONG PRESSURE ON US WHEN WE PRESENT PAGS FOR 1976
TO AMEND OUR NOMINATIONS TO FIT THEIR PROFIT PLAN.
EMB PLANS TO SUGGEST THAT GOSKONTSERT MAY INVITE AS MANY
AMERICANS AS IT WISHES OUTSIDE THE AGREEMENT TO BALANCE
ITS BUDGET, BUT THAT GOSKONTSERT OBLIGATED TO CONSIDER
SERIOUSLY THOSE GROUPS WE NOMINATE WITHIN THE AGREEMENT.
(INCIDENTALLY, SUBSEQUENT RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT KREMLIN
PALACE OF CONGRESSES SEATS 5,803 AND HAS BEEN USED FOR
SYMPHONY.)

2. GOSKONTSERT OFFICIAL REVEALED THAT SUPAGIN (SEE REFTEL C)
WILL BE OFFICIALLY NAMED TO DIRECTOR POST NEXT WEEK.
STOESSEL

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